

## HPMVAC Update: May 20, 2021

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### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK

- Expanded eligibility for individuals 18+
- Youth vaccination program for youths ages 12-17
- Pfizer and Moderna vaccine available through pharmacies

### VACCINATION PROGRAM IN HURON-PERTH

#### Vaccine eligibility

- Phase Two eligibility continues, dependent on vaccine supply.
- New eligible groups for HPPH mass vaccination clinics have been added:
  - Individuals age 18 or older (born 2003 or earlier)
  - Individuals ages 12 – 17, currently being reached through the youth vaccination program
- See Complete Eligibility List in Appendix A

#### Vaccine availability

- Huron Perth continues to administer every vaccine received.
- HPPH does not determine which vaccines are received and allocated for HPPH and Primary Care clinics; Pfizer-BioNtech and Moderna are the COVID-19 vaccines available in the region currently for HPPH mass vaccination clinics.
  - Clients will be told at the clinic which vaccine is being provided that day.
  - Clients will receive a second dose of the same vaccine in 16 weeks (with some groups receiving second dose earlier).
  - Note: Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines
- We anticipate a number of pharmacies will offer Pfizer and Moderna vaccines shortly. This will provide more options for people wishing to be vaccinated. Please visit [COVID-19 Pharmacy Vaccine Locations](#) to learn more.

#### Astra-Zeneca

- The rollout and administration of first doses of AstraZeneca vaccine remains paused. The province has indicated it will provide more guidance around second doses for those who received a first dose of AstraZeneca. The Huron

Perth Mass Vaccination Advisory Committee, which includes HPPH, pharmacy and primary care representatives, will follow provincial direction on second doses.

## Second doses

### ELIGIBILITY FOR SHORTENED DOSE INTERVAL

- In keeping with provincial direction, Huron Perth Public Health continues to maintain the time interval for second doses of COVID-19 vaccines at 16 weeks, allowing more first doses to be administered.
- The province has identified additional groups eligible for the shortened second dose interval (the dose interval as indicated in the product monographs). Please see Appendix D for this list.

### How to book second dose for extended or shortened dose interval

- HPPH does not book second dose appointments when you get your first dose. You must book your second dose once you are eligible.
- Use the [HPPH second dose calculator](#) to find out when you can receive your second dose. If you don't qualify for the shortened dose interval, then you will be eligible to receive your second dose between 14.5-16 weeks after your first dose.
- Once you know your earliest appointment date, visit the HPPH booking system at [www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking](http://www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking) or call 1-833-753-2098 to see available clinics.
  - If your earliest possible second dose date falls within the date range of an upcoming HPPH clinic, please book an appointment. If clinics are not yet available during the time you are due for your second dose, please check back for future clinics.
  - You can also subscribe to the booking webpage to get alerts when new clinics are added.
- If you received your first dose through your primary care provider or at an HPPH community clinic, please go ahead and book at an HPPH community clinic for your second dose.
- Reminder emails
  - We are sending a reminder email, when possible, to alert individuals when they will be due for their second dose, following the extended interval of 16 weeks.
  - Note: We are only able to send emails to those who have been vaccinated at an HPPH community clinic AND who provided us with an email address at the time of booking.
  - If you have already received your second dose, please ignore this email reminder.
  - Please note that even without an email, you can still book a second dose if you are eligible. The email is just a helpful reminder.
- If you book an appointment before your earliest possible appointment date, and you do not qualify for the earlier dose schedule, you will be turned away at the clinic.

## Current Vaccination progress

- As of May 20, there have been 61,282 vaccine doses administered in Huron and Perth counties by HPPH and partners, primary care and pharmacies.
- For Huron Perth residents age 16 and older, 50.5% of those have received at least one dose of vaccine and 4.4% are fully vaccinated.
- Vaccination coverage in Huron-Perth continues to be on par with the province. Public Health Ontario reports that as of May 8 (most current compared data):
  - 37.9 % of H-P residents age 18 and over had received at least 1 dose (provincial average 38.7%)
  - 3.2% of H-P residents age 18 and over had completed the vaccination series (provincial average 2.6%)
    - [Source: Public Health Ontario | COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Ontario: December
- HPPH updates Huron-Perth vaccination coverage information on a separate dashboard available at our COVID-19 Data in Huron and Perth page. You can also directly visit the HPPH [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#).

## About HPPH Clinics

- HPPH is hosting three Moderna-ONLY clinics, available for booking first and second doses.
  - Thursday, May 27 at the Stratford Rotary Complex | 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford
  - Thursday, June 3 at the Maitland Recreation Centre (YMCA) | 190 Suncoast Drive East, Goderich
  - Monday, June 7 at the Stratford Rotary Complex | 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford
  - Appointments for these clinics can be booked online at [www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking](http://www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking) or by calling 1-833-753-2098.
  - Moderna is an mRNA vaccine, similar to Pfizer-BioNTech. However, if your first dose was Pfizer then you are NOT eligible for a second dose at a Moderna clinic
  - Only individuals age 18 or older are eligible for Moderna
- We are working with our local school boards and private schools on vaccinations for youth ages 12-17 and their eligible family members. This group is receiving communication directly from their school boards/schools with exclusive booking links and will have priority access to clinic appointments for the weeks of June 14 and June 21. Priority access is part of our youth vaccination plan, based on Ministry direction.
- Appointments for first dose vaccinations at other HPPH clinics are currently full. When additional clinics open, we will communicate this widely.
  - We ask that people waiting to book vaccination appointments please be patient with our staff during this busy time.
- We continue to book second vaccine doses for those eligible. See “Second Dose” section above for more information.
- Anyone **eligible** for a vaccination, or a trusted individual acting on an eligible person’s behalf, can contact the HPPH booking system at [hpph.ca/vaccinebooking](http://hpph.ca/vaccinebooking) or by calling 1-833-753-2098. Online booking is preferred due to high call volumes.
- Residents are strongly encouraged to not book multiple appointments for one person; doing so slows down the booking system.
- Please cancel appointments that have been double booked or need to be rescheduled or cancelled. This will free up spots for other eligible residents. Cancellations can be done through email at: [VaccineCancellation@hpph.ca](mailto:VaccineCancellation@hpph.ca) or by calling HPPH Vaccine Booking line: 1-833-753-2098 and Press 2 for Cancellations.
- **There are no walk-in, end-of-day doses available at HPPH clinics.** HPPH has a process for administering any end-of-day doses; this process involves a list of eligible vaccination candidates. Please do not come to an HPPH clinic if you do not have an appointment, as there will not be an opportunity to receive vaccine.

## Also remember

- **“Once eligible, always eligible”** Once HPPH announces that you are eligible for the vaccine, you are always eligible; you will not miss your chance to be vaccinated as there will be additional opportunities.
- Find the latest vaccination updates at [hpph.ca/vaccines](http://hpph.ca/vaccines). To hear our regularly updated 24-7 vaccination status message, call HPPH at 888.221.2133 and select “1” for COVID VACCINE. Please listen to the whole message to receive all of the information.
- **Please remember that there will be enough vaccine for everyone.** Anyone who wants to be vaccinated will receive their opportunity to be vaccinated. We appreciate the enthusiasm and patience of those eager to receive COVID vaccine.
- Anyone who has received a first dose, or both doses, of a COVID-19 vaccine must continue to follow all public health measures. Right now we know the vaccines will protect those who receive it from getting very sick with COVID-19. Until we learn otherwise, however, it is possible that someone who has been vaccinated could still pass the virus on to others. As long as COVID is still circulating in Ontario, it is important to continue public health measures, even if you are vaccinated.

## For More Information

Please visit [www.hpph.ca/vaccine](http://www.hpph.ca/vaccine) for more information, or contact your HPMVAC sector representative. The HPMVAC membership list is available at [www.hpph.ca/vaccine](http://www.hpph.ca/vaccine). You can also call HPPH at 888.221.2133 for more information.

## About HPMVAC

The Huron Perth COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Advisory Committee (HPMVAC) is a collaborative of multiple relevant sector stakeholder members from our Huron and Perth communities.

Under the leadership of Huron Perth Public Health, our table has been meeting to inform COVID-19 mass vaccination planning and operations for our communities.

This memo serves to update you, our community members and partners. Please note, guidance provided is subject to change. This reflects the evolving nature of COVID-19 and related supply chain logistics.

*Note for Partners:* Vaccine doses can be maximized through use of 1mL syringes. We ask our healthcare partners to consider using alternate syringe sizes where appropriate to preserve all 1mL syringes for vaccination purposes in our communities.

## APPENDIX A – ELIGIBILITY for First Dose at HPPH Clinics (May 20, 2021)

- Individuals age 18 or older (born 2003 or earlier) **\*NEW**
- Individuals ages 12 – 17 through the youth vaccination program (link provided by school boards/schools) **\*NEW**
- Adults 16 and older with the following At-risk health conditions:
  - Immune deficiencies and autoimmune disorders
  - Stroke and cerebrovascular disease
  - Dementia
  - Diabetes
  - Liver disease
  - All other cancers
  - Respiratory diseases, such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy
  - Spleen problems, such as asplenia
  - Heart disease
  - Hypertension with end organ damage
  - Diagnosed mental disorder
  - Substance use disorders
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Thalassemia
  - Immunocompromising health conditions
  - Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community
- Adults 16 and older who work in an essential workplace who cannot work from home or remotely, including Group Two of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan (please note: this list is not exhaustive):
  - Individuals working in childcare: Unlicensed childcare settings
  - Essential and critical retail workers (including grocery, food bank, pharmacy, Service Ontario, Service Canada, Passport Canada, wholesalers and general goods, restaurant, LCBO workers)
  - Workers in manufacturing industries directly involved in supporting the COVID-19 response, construction (including infrastructure) and other essential businesses and services where facilities are at heightened risk

- for COVID-19 outbreaks and spread
  - Social workers and social services staff who provide in-person client services (including youth justice workers, Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program case workers)
  - Courts and justice system workers (including probation and parole workers)
  - Transportation, warehousing and distribution workers (including public transit workers, truck drivers supporting essential services, marine and rail cargo and maintenance, highway maintenance)
  - Electricity (including system operations, generation, transmission, distribution and storage workers)
  - Communications infrastructure workers (including cellular, satellite, landline, internet, public safety radio)
  - Water and wastewater management workers
  - Financial services workers (bank branch staff)
  - Veterinarians and veterinary teams
  - Waste management workers
  - Oil and petroleum workers (including petroleum refineries, crude oil and petroleum storage, transmission and distribution, retail sale of fuel)
  - Natural gas and propane gas workers (including compression, storage, transmission and distribution of natural gas and propane)
  - Mine workers (including those needed to ensure the continued operation of active mines)
  - Uranium processing workers (those working in the refining and conversion of uranium and fabrication of fuel for nuclear power plants)
- People who cannot work from home (remotely) who fall under Group One of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan.
  - Elementary and secondary school workers (including educators, custodial, school bus drivers, administrative staff)
  - Workers responding to critical events (including police, fire, special constables, children's aid society workers, emergency management, critical infrastructure, restoration workers)
  - Enforcement, inspection and compliance roles (including by-law enforcement, building inspectors, food inspectors, animal welfare inspectors, border inspection officers, labour inspectors/WSIB field workers)
  - Foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)
  - Food manufacturing and distribution workers
  - Agriculture and farm workers
  - Funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers.
- Child care workers who are 18 years of age and older, defined specifically as:
  - Licensees, employees and students on an educational placement who interact directly with children in licensed child care centres and in authorized recreation and skill building programs.
  - Licensed home child care and in-home service providers, employees of a home child care agency and students on an educational placement who interact directly with children in a licensed home child care setting.
- **Education staff who provide direct in-person support to students with complex special needs**, defined as those who support students who meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - who require support with activities of daily living, including health and safety measures
  - are unable to wear masks for medical reasons
  - have complex medical needs
  - cannot be accommodated through remote learning.

Please note: Eligible staff will receive a letter from their school board confirming their eligibility.

**Indigenous adults 16 years of age and older.**

- Immediate household/family members of Indigenous people who themselves are not Indigenous are also eligible to receive the vaccine.

**Adults 16 years of age and older with the following highest-risk health conditions:**

- Organ transplant recipients
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients
- Neurological diseases in which respiratory function may be compromised (e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis)
- Haematological malignancy diagnosed <1 year
- Kidney disease eGFR < 30
- Obesity (BMI > 40)
- Individuals who are pregnant at the time of vaccination
- Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome)
- Other treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g., chemotherapy, immunity weakening medications) \*
  - Individuals should speak to their treating provider to determine the most appropriate timing for administration of the first dose of vaccine.
- One (1) primary essential caregiver for an individual with an eligible highest-risk or certain high-risk health condition.
  - A primary essential caregiver is an individual who provides regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living.

### **Residents, Primary Essential Caregivers and Staff of High-Risk Congregate Living Settings**

High-risk congregate living settings refer to residential facilities where a high-risk client population live or stay overnight and use shared spaces (e.g. common sleeping areas, shared bathrooms, shared kitchens, communal dining spaces). The settings are at higher risk of transmission.

Primary essential caregivers are individuals (who enter the congregate living setting) to provide regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living.

Residents, Primary Essential Caregivers and Staff of High-Risk Congregate Living Settings in the following settings:

- Developmental services/intervenor which includes
  - supported independent living (person lives independently and has support worker(s) who come into the home to assist.)
  - Mental health and addictions congregate living
  - Homes for special care (provincial program providing housing, meals and assistance with daily living for adults with a serious mental illness)
  - Children’s residential facilities
  - Youth justice facilities
  - Supportive housing (a setting where individuals are receiving care)
  - Indigenous healing and wellness
  - Bail beds and Indigenous bail beds
  - Provincial and demonstration schools/Consortium Centre Jules-Leger
  - Emergency homeless shelters
  - Other homeless populations not in shelters
  - Employer-provided living accommodations for temporary foreign agricultural workers
  - Adult correctional facilities
  - Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters
  - Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) residences
  - Inpatients on rehabilitation, complex care, geriatrics and mental health units
  - Primary essential caregivers are individuals who provide regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living.
- **Faith leaders who as part of their regular role are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 through close contact with persons and families in the following circumstances:**
    - End of life care.

- Care of the deceased, funerals, bathing, or other ceremony with direct contact with deceased persons.
- Home visits to unwell persons.
- Pastoral care in hospitals/LTCHs/RHs or other vulnerable settings.
- **All health care workers.**
  - Cohort is defined in further clarity in Appendix B.
- **Residents, staff, and essential caregivers associated with long-term care, retirement homes, and other congregate care settings for seniors, including assisted living facilities.**
  - Cohort is defined in further clarity in Appendix C.
- **Residents and staff of congregate settings with a history of outbreak or with high-risk populations, at the discretion of the local public health unit.**
- **Adults 16 years of age and older who are chronic home care recipients.**

## APPENDIX B – Health Care Workers

Where a health sector has been named in the priority sector, all frontline workers in that sector are included (e.g., including students, registered volunteers, custodial, security and reception staff). Where a non-health setting has been named, only workers providing a health service or direct patient care are included.

**Hospital and acute care health care workers in frontline roles with COVID-19 patients and/or with a high-risk of exposure to COVID-19. These individuals should be regularly scheduled staff (full time or part time) and not transient workers. The staff must be drawn from the following areas:**

- Critical Care Units
- Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Departments
- COVID-19 Medical Units
- Code Blue Teams and rapid response teams
- General internal medicine and other specialists involved in the direct care of COVID-19 positive patients

**Patient-facing health care workers involved in the COVID-19 response:**

- COVID-19 Assessment Centers, including Mobile Testing Teams
- COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams
- COVID-19 Isolation Centers
- COVID-19 Laboratory Services

**Medical First Responders**

- ORNGE, paramedics, firefighters and police providing medical first response

**Patient-facing community health care workers serving specialized populations including:**

- Needle exchange/syringe programs & supervised consumption and treatment services
- Aboriginal Health Access Centers, Indigenous Community Health Centers, Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Teams, and Indigenous Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics
- Community Health Centers serving disproportionately affected communities and/or communities experiencing highest burden of health, social and economic impacts from COVID-19
- Home and community care health care workers caring for recipients of chronic homecare and seniors in congregate living facilities or providing hands-on care to COVID-19 patients.

**Frontline healthcare workers working in hospital inpatient settings and hospital procedural areas, including surgical care, anesthesia, obstetrics, endoscopy, operating rooms, dialysis, imaging, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy.**

**Frontline healthcare workers in the following outpatient and ambulatory areas:**

- Hospital-based outpatient clinics
- Primary care, including walk-in clinics, community health centres, and nurse-practitioner-led clinics
- Home and community care
- Adult day programs for seniors
- Community Based Specialty clinics, including medical and surgical specialties
- Death investigation professionals
- Dentistry
- Gynecology/obstetrics, midwifery, and birth centres
- Contract nursing agencies
- Pharmacies
- Assisted living, group homes, residential facilities, supportive housing
- Hospices and palliative care settings
- Shelters

**Laboratory services.**

**Frontline healthcare workers in the following outpatient and ambulatory areas, including:**

- Developmental services
- Mental health and addictions services
- Campus health
- Community diagnostic imaging
- Daycare/school nursing
- Dietary / nutrition
- Independent health facilities (e.g., Opticians/Optomety, Podiatry, Audiology)
- Naturopathy / Holistic care
- Social work
- Sexual health clinics

**Frontline healthcare workers in the following non-acute rehabilitation and therapy areas, including:**

- Chiropractic
- Chronic pain clinics
- Kinesiology
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Psychotherapy
- Registered massage therapy
- Acupuncture, other therapy

**Public health.**

**Non-Frontline health care workers (e.g., those working remotely, in administration, and who do not require PPE to work).**

**APPENDIX C – Individuals associated with long-term care and retirement homes**

- The following individuals associated with long-term care and retirement homes are eligible to receive the first-dose vaccines.
- Long-term care and retirement home residents.
- Long-term care and retirement home staff. ○ Includes LHIN, Hospital, Primary Care and Paramedic Services staff who are directly providing on-site support to LTCH and RHs in outbreak and have committed

to a week or more of attending the facility.

- Essential caregivers in long-term care and retirement homes ○ A caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident.
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to LTCH, RH, or other congregate care home for seniors, as operationally feasible.

## APPENDIX D – Individuals eligible for shortened second-dose interval

The following groups should receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the second dose interval as indicated in the product monographs:

- Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and Assisted Living facilities, as these groups are at the greatest risk of both exposure to COVID-19 and serious illness and death.
  - Please note: the Ministry has not designated any eligible Assisted Living Facilities in Huron Perth to qualify for the dose interval indicated in product monographs.
- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants).
- Stable, active treatment for malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic solid tumour (excluding individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy).
  - If you have one of the above two medical conditions, please contact your primary care provider.
- Individuals undergoing hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Indigenous adults
- Eligible [high-risk health care workers](#)
- Essential Caregivers of long-term care and retirement homes
  - Please note: this does not include primary essential caregivers. Primary essential caregivers will receive their second dose of vaccine at the extended dose interval of 16 weeks.